

DARREN CRISS GIFTS BEST FRIEND AND MANAGER A ONE-OF-A-KIND RENOVATION IN JULY 19 EPISODE OF HGTV'S 'CELEBRITY IOU'

New York [July 14, 2021] Darren Criss is a famous actor, singer and songwriter but, in a new episode of HGTV's hit series Celebrity IOU, he'll trade in his guitar for a sledgehammer to express his great gratitude to his decade-long best friend, manager and fellow music fan, Ricky, who he credits with helping to launch his career. During the episode on Monday, July 19, at 9 p.m. ET/PT, Darren, who has an Emmy® Award, Golden Globe® Award and Screen Actors Guild Award® to his credit, will take a much different stage, working beside real estate and renovation experts Drew and Jonathan Scott to demolish walls, jackhammer concrete and nail down framing. The trio will ultimately transform Ricky's old detached garage and unused outdoor area into beautiful, functional spaces for his family to enjoy. In addition to airing on HGTV, Darren's episode of Celebrity IOU also will be available to stream on discovery+ early on Monday, July 19.

"I think the dream for anybody in any profession is to be able to work with your friends," said Darren. "Ricky has devoted an unfathomable amount of time—more time than I believe I deserve—away from his wife and his kid to make my dreams come true. This is a small token of all my appreciation for everything he's done."

Darren's wish is to turn Ricky's rickety garage into a dedicated work-from-home space, something he's never had before and desperately needs. Darren will recruit Drew and Jonathan to not only turn the garage into a home office but also to maximize the renovated building for use as an in-law suite equipped with a living area, bathroom and kitchenette. The Brothers also will give Ricky's lackluster backyard a major upgrade by building an outdoor lounging area with a hot tub.

"Ricky is easily one of the best things that has ever happened to me in my entire life," added Darren. "He has invested so much of himself into making my dreams come true."

Celebrity IOU features Hollywood A-listers who help a special person in their lives get the renovation they need. The series spotlights Drew and Jonathan and their celebrity friends as they inspire, entertain and bring fans to happy tears with personal stories of gratitude. Working together with the Brothers, the celebs get their hands dirty to surprise their deserving friends and mentors with the stunning home overhauls. Celebrity IOU is produced by Scott Brothers Entertainment with Drew and Jonathan as executive producers.

Fans are invited to visit HGTV's digital platforms for additional fresh content from each new episode of *Celebrity IOU*. Viewers can watch the episodes on HGTV GO the same day and time as the TV premieres—Mondays at 9 p.m. Fans can connect with the series at HGTV.com/Celebrity-IOU to find articles, before and after photo galleries and more details about the celebrities. Social media users can follow @HGTV and #CelebIOU on Facebook, Twitter and Invitation and #CelebIOU on Facebook, Twitter and Invitation invitation i

updates. Drew and Jonathan also will share more from the new episodes on their social channels at @mrdrewscott (Instagram, Twitter) and @jonathanscott (Instagram, Twitter).

ABOUT HGTV

HGTV delivers families with relatable stories, superstar real estate and renovation experts and amazing home transformations that inspire a passionate audience. For anyone seeking entertaining and aspirational home and lifestyle content, HGTV is the place to be. HGTV offers: a top 10 cable network that is distributed to 81 million U.S. households; a website, HGTV.com, that attracts an average of 10.5 million people each month; a social footprint of 25.7 million; HGTV Magazine, a monthly publication that reaches more than one million readers and exclusive collections of home-oriented products through the HGTV HOME™ consumer products line. Viewers can become fans of HGTV and interact with other home improvement enthusiasts through Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest and Instagram. HGTV is owned by Discovery, Inc., a global leader in real life entertainment spanning 220 countries and territories, whose portfolio also includes Discovery Channel, Food Network, TLC, Investigation Discovery, Travel Channel, MotorTrend, Animal Planet, Science Channel, and the forthcoming multiplatform JV with Chip and Joanna Gaines, Magnolia, as well as OWN: Oprah Winfrey Network.

ABOUT discovery+

<u>discovery+</u> is the definitive non-fiction, real life subscription streaming service. discovery+ features a landmark partnership with Verizon <u>that gives their customers with select plans up to 12 months of discovery+ on Verizon</u>. discovery+ has the largest-ever content offering of any new streaming service at launch, featuring a wide range of exclusive, original series across popular, passion verticals in which Discovery brands have a strong leadership position, including lifestyle and relationships; home and food; true crime; paranormal; adventure and natural history; as well as science, tech and the environment, and a slate of high-quality documentaries. For more, visit <u>discoveryplus.com</u> or find it on a variety of platforms and devices, including ones from Amazon, Apple, Google, Microsoft, Roku and Samsung.

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